

## Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

I D A L S , M A D I S O N  
C O U N T Y S W C D , A N D  
N R C S

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### Badger Creek Lake Watershed

## 75% COST-SHARE AVAILABLE NOW

The following are some of conservation practices available for 75% cost-share in the Badger Creek Lake Watershed.

### TERRACES

### PONDS

### WETLANDS

### SEDIMENT BASINS

### PASTURE & HAY PLANTING

### GRASSED WATERWAYS

### FILTERS AND BUFFERS

We also have **CRP**, **IFIP**, and **EQIP** programs available and we will advise you on the most cost effective best management practice for your land.

If you would like more information on this practices feel free to contact Mike Erwin. I can be reached at (515) 462-2961 or at [michael.erwin@ia.nacdnet.net](mailto:michael.erwin@ia.nacdnet.net).

My office is located in the Madison County USDA Service center.

*If you can't make it in during business hours, I'm available after hours by appointment.*

Thank you.



# Badger Creek Lake Watershed Project

I D A L S , M A D I S O N C O U N T Y S W C D , A N D N R C S

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lake built in 1980
- 269 acre Lake
- Watershed is 11,700 acres
- 65,000 people visit the lake per year.
- 642 dump truck loads of soil reaches the lake a year.

### HISTORY OF THE WATERSHED:

Late in 1955, Ed Baur suggested to John Armstrong that farmers in Badger Creek should become an organized watershed. In 1957 the landowners in Madison and Jefferson townships were joined by landowners from Lee township and Warren county to form the Badger Creek Watershed Committee. In April of 1957 the committee prepared and submitted a Public Law 566 application. The state Soil Conservation Committee recommended that Badger Creek as priority watershed in 1957.

Here are some thoughts from John Armstrong the 1957 committee chairman. "We see terraces

above terraces that cause water to walk the long way around to get into well shaped grassed waterways, the water filtering into branches of Badger Creek. Heavy with slit? No. We see good fences, well-painted buildings, the mark of a prosperous community. All paid for by increased yields from a good job of conservation farming. After a heavy rain in the watershed, what will we see on main Badger? A rise in the water level, sure-water must go some place. Instead of a rip-roaring flood that comes up in thirty minutes and in two to three hours is gone, we will see a slow rise to bank full sustained over a day or so,

slowly fed by water from structures that slowly lower the water and water from tiles, where the water percolates into the soil due to a sound rotation.

What do we see in dry years? We see green improved pastures, green fields from water stored in the soil due to good rotations. We see farm ponds full of cool clear water with tanks

below, where cattle may stand and drink their fill. A rose fence around each pond in place of a wire fence. We hear the happy shouts of children as they catch their first bluegill or bass."

In an answer to those that say, "Johnny, you're a dreamer," he says, "maybe".

John's dream is coming true, due to the dedication and hard work of the many Badger Creek watershed supporters over the years. You can be part of making this dream come true by looking around the watershed and by asking yourself how you can improve on the and stewardship you are doing today.

The Badger Creek Lake Watershed is very fortunate the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, EPA 319, Iowa Department of Agricultural and Land Stewardship, and Natural Resources Conservation Service has once again **made this watershed a priority**.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

319 watershed Project	2
Mike Erwin Watershed Coordinator	2
Upcoming Field Days	2
Josh Abel Summer Intern	3
Eric Bylthe Badger Creek Inspector	3
Cost Share Practices	6

319 WATERSHED PROJECT

The Badger Creek Lake Watershed project is a 3 year EPA Grant to address the siltation and nutrients reaching Badger Creek Lake. With your cooperation we are hoping to install conservation practices in the unprotected areas. Throughout the watershed we would like to reduce the amount of soil and nutrients leaving the fields by installing terraces and waterways. We would also like to help you improve your profits from your cattle operation by improving your grass with

rotational grazing and developing water sources for your cattle. We may even be able to eliminate some of those problem water gaps, by using CRP to rent and fencing parts of the creeks.

The purpose of this project is enhance your land and increase your profits and pleasure you receive from your land. By us working together to accomplish the above, we should have no problem improving the water quality in the lake.

MIKE ERWIN  
WATERSHED COORDINATOR

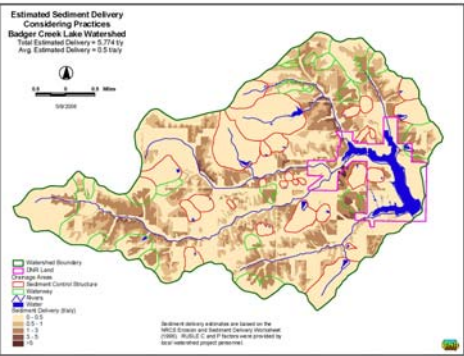
Hello, I'm Mike Erwin and I have the privilege of being the Badger Creek Lake Watershed (BCLW) coordinator. My responsibilities as an environmental specialist with the Division of Soil Conservation, which is part of the Iowa Department of Agricultural and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is to assist and consult with you on the use of your land resources.

A little about me, I'm the

fourth generation to be active in agriculture and farming in Iowa. I grew up around New Virginia, Iowa and then attended South Dakota State University, where I received a B.S. in Ag Journalism with a minor in Animal Science. After graduation I returned to Iowa to work in the agricultural environmental management field for seven years. The last two years I have been the Cedar Lake Watershed coordinator here in Madison County.

My wife Darla and I own a farm

This is your opportunity to take advantage of an extra 25% cost-share being offered only to landowners in the Badger Creek Lake Watershed. Please feel free to contact us anytime with questions.



by New Virginia, where we raise Short-horn cattle and replacement heifers. We are also partners in my parent's farm, which raises cattle, hogs, corn and hay.

I'm looking forward to visiting with you on how we can improve your land, profit, lifestyle, and the lake. I would like to help you achieve your goals for your land and see Badger Creek Lake benefit. I'm always open to suggestions, so please give me a call

UPCOMING FIELD DAYS

PROJECT KICK-OFF

MEETING

September 7, 2006

7:00 p.m.

ACREAGE

WORKSHOP

October, 5 2006

7:00 p.m.

FARMING & GRAZING

MEETING

JANUARY 2007



JOSH ABEL  
WATER SAMPLING INTERN



Josh Abel

Hi, my name is Josh Abel and for the past month or so I've been sampling water in the Badger Creek Lake watershed. This is my second summer working on a EPA Grant, but it's my first year sampling Badger Creek's watershed. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has categorized Badger Creek Lake as one of the states impaired waters due to siltation and nutrient enrichment. My job is to collect water quality data from the lake as well as the watershed. I sample 26 sites weekly for phosphorus,

nitrogen, dissolved oxygen, PH, chloride and turbidity.

Because Badger Creek Lake has siltation and nutrient problems sampling for phosphorus, nitrogen and turbidity is vital to the future of the lake. Phosphorus is one of the essential nutrients that algae need to grow. I believe slightly elevated levels of phosphorus are the reason for the lakes nutrient problems in the past. My findings show that nitrogen is not the problem as far as nutrients are concerned in the lake. Badger Creek Lake has shown no signs of nitrogen and there are little amounts in the watershed. Turbidity, or water clarity, is low in the watershed and, at times, the lake has had low water clarity. Fortunately in the last week or two the lakes water clarity has been much better. This is probably due to the unseasonably dry weather the region has been suffering from. Most of the water from the watershed cannot reach the lake because the streams are not flowing due to the dry weather.



ERIC BYLTHE  
BADGER CREEK INSPECTOR

My name is Eric Blythe; I am working for the National Resource Conservation Service for the summer as an intern inspecting structures built by the Madison County Soil Conservation District. Throughout the past few weeks I have been inspecting 27 pond structures in Badger Creek watershed. During this time I have been focusing on a few different items of inspection. These include: pipe integrity, embankment integrity, design alterations, cathodic protection, livestock

over grazing, pollutants, and encroachment. Specifically I am looking to make sure that pipes aren't broken or rusting, erosion is kept at a minimum, cattle aren't allowed onto the dam structures, trees aren't on the dam or around outlet areas, and there are no houses below dams. These structures were built in the 1960's to help prevent flood and sedimentation damage in the watershed. Before they were in place there was excessive erosion and flooding problems throughout the en-

tire watershed area. These structures help contain sediment and also slow down water to prevent both of these problems. Keeping these structures maintained is the key to preventing these types of problems from re-occurring.



Eric Blythe